

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 08587 042211Z

71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 L-03 H-03 SCEM-02 SPC-03 AID-20

EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08

OMB-01 CEA-02 XMB-07 OPIC-12 INT-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /159 W

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R 042058Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1399

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, VE

SUBJ: COPEI PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ON PETROLEUM

1. IN ANSWERS TO THREE QUESTIONS ON PETROLEUM DURING TELEVISED PRO-VENEZUELA FORUM FOR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES OCTOBER 2, COPEI PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE LORENZO FERNANDEZ TOOK POSITIONS ON ORINOCO TAR BELT, "EARLY REVERSION" OF EXISTING PETROLEUM CONCESSIONS, AND ROLE OF FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES IN MARKETING PETROLEUM AFTER REVERSION IS ACCOMPLISHED. TO QUESTION OF WHETHER FOREIGN FIRMS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO EXPLOIT ORINOCO TAR BELT, FERNANDEZ REPLIED THAT BELT SHOULD BE EXPLORED AND EXPLOITED BY VENEZUELAN FIRMS FOR BENEFIT OF VENEZUELAN. WITH REGARD TO EXISTING CONCESSIONS, HE STATED HE IS IN FAVOR OF ADVANCING DATE OF REVERSION, ADDING THAT HE WAS ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY "HERE AND NOW" FOR BRINGING ABOUT SUCH MEASURE. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION AS TO WHETHER FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES SHOULD MARKET PETROLEUM AFTER REVERSION, HE REPLIED THAT HE WOULD FAVOR WHATEVER SOLUTION IS BEST FOR VENEZUELA, WHICH WOULD BE TAKEN AFTER SERIOUS CONSULTATION WITH ALL SECTORS. HE ADDED HIS FAMILIAR "MY HAND WILL NOT TREMBLE" PHRASE WITH REGARD TO WHETHER HE WOULD SIGN MEASURE NATIONALIZING PETROLEUM INDUSTRY IF ANALYSIS INDICATED IT WOULD BE IN NATIONAL INTEREST TO DO SO.

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PAGE 02 CARACA 08587 042211Z

2. COMMENT: IT APPEARED THAT FERNANDEZ WAS READY FOR THESE

QUESTIONS, SINCE HE ANSWERED THEM BRIEFLY AND WITHOUT VACILLATION. FERNANDEZ' ANSWERS SUSTAIN NATIONALISTIC STANCE OF COPEI VIS-A-VIS FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES, BUT HE AVOIDED ANSWERING IN SUCH DETAIL AS TO COMMIT HIMSELF AS TO EXACT TIMING OR NATURE OF MOVES HE WILL WANT TO MAKE ON PETROLEUM ARRANGEMENTS.
FISHER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 04 OCT 1973
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: ENRG, VE, (FERNANDEZ, LORENZO)
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